

CLAIM LISTING

1. (currently amended) A method for creating a best-match object at run time, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for an object;

polling a plurality of object proxies for a confidence level representing the capability of each respective proxy to generate the requested object, each object proxy representing and configured to create a particular object;

receiving, from each of the plurality of object proxies, a confidence level indicative of that object proxy's ability to generate the requested object;

selecting one of the proxies based on the ~~polled~~ received confidence levels; and

directing the selected proxy to create the object represented by the selected object proxy.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving a request for an object comprises receiving indicia of a peripheral device.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein indicia comprises a device identifier.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting one of the proxies comprises comparing each confidence level with a previously received confidence level.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting one of the proxies comprises storing an index associated with a proxy having a greater confidence level.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of directing the select one of the proxies to create the object generates a peripheral device driver.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
registering a new proxy capable of creating an object designated for use with a new peripheral device.

8. (currently amended) A system, comprising an object generator and a processor operable to execute the object generator, the object generator including instructions that when executed by the processor function as:

means for receiving indicia of an object to be created;

~~means for identifying a select one of a plurality of object proxies responsive to a respective confidence level associated with each object proxy; and~~

~~means for directing the selected object proxy to create the object.~~

means for polling a plurality of object proxies for a confidence level representing the capability of each respective proxy to generate the requested object, each object proxy representing and configured to create a particular object;

means for receiving, from each of the object proxies, a confidence level indicative of that object proxy's ability to generate the requested object;

means for selecting one of the proxies based on the ~~polled~~ received confidence levels; and

means for directing the selected proxy to create the object represented by the selected object proxy

9. (currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for receiving indicia of an object to be created is responsive to a user interface.

10. (currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for receiving indicia of an object to be created is responsive to a communication from a device associated with the object.

11. (currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for selecting ~~identifying a select~~ one of a plurality of object proxies comprises means for comparing each respective received confidence level with a previously received confidence level.

12. (previously presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for selecting ~~identifying a select~~ one of a plurality of object proxies comprises means for comparing each received confidence level with a maximum confidence level.

13. (currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the means for selecting ~~identifying a select~~ one of a plurality of object proxies comprises means for selecting ~~identifies~~ an object proxy that returns the maximum confidence level as the selected object proxy.

14. (currently amended) A system, comprising an object generator and a processor operable to execute the object generator, the object generator including instructions that when executed by the processor function as:

~~an object factory configured to poll object proxies capable of producing
respective objects responsive to system needs; and~~

~~a pool including a plurality of the object proxies, each object proxy configured to
create a respective object producing the object, the pool configured to receive indicia of
the a requested object from the object factory and each of the plurality of object proxies
configured to return a respective confidence level indicative of that object proxy's ability
to generate the requested object; and responsive to the indicia.~~

an object factory configured to poll the plurality of object proxies for a confidence
level representing the capability of each respective proxy to generate the requested
object, to receive, from each of the object proxies, a confidence level indicative of that
object proxy's ability to generate the requested object, to select one of the proxies
based on the received confidence levels, and to direct the selected object proxy to
create the object represented by the selected object proxy.

15. (previously presented) The system of claim 14, further comprising:

an interface associated with the object factory, the interface configured to receive
a request for the object.

16. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the interface is
configured to communicate with a user interface.

17. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the interface is
configured to communicate with a device that will interact with the object.

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the interface is
configured to receive a device identifier.

19. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the interface is configured to receive a device identifier associated with a printer.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the object factory comprises a comparator configured to determine which of a first confidence level associated with a first object proxy and a second confidence level associated with a second object proxy is more likely to produce an object most responsive to the system need.

21. (previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein when the comparator is configured to recognize a maximum confidence level, the object factory is configured to direct the object proxy associated with the maximum confidence level to create an object.

22. (previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein when the comparator fails to recognize a maximum confidence level, the object factory is configured to direct the object proxy associated with the greatest confidence level to create an object.

23. (previously presented) The system of claim 14, further comprising:
an object store configured to receive an object generated by an object proxy.

24. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium, comprising:
logic configured to receive a request for an object;
logic configured to, in response to receiving the request, poll a plurality of object proxies for a confidence level representing the capability of the respective object proxy

to generate the requested object each object proxy representing and configured to create a particular object;

logic configured to receive, from each of the object proxies, a confidence level indicative of that object proxy's ability to generate the requested object;

logic configured to select one of the plurality of proxies responsive to the received ~~polled~~ confidence levels; and

logic configured to direct the selected proxy to create the object represented by the selected object proxy.

25. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the ~~system-need comprises~~ the requested object is an object for interfacing with a peripheral device.

26. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the logic configured to poll communicates with a plurality of object proxies.

27. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the plurality of object proxies does not represent an exact match of ~~the~~ a system need.

28. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the plurality of object proxies are each configured to represent the capabilities of a respective device driver that can be generated by the respective object proxy.

29. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein each respective device driver comprises a printer driver.

30. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the logic configured to poll a plurality of object proxies is further configured to determine that the respective device driver that can be generated is appropriate without loading or otherwise communicating with the actual device driver.

31. (currently amended) A system, comprising an object generator and a processor operable to execute the object generator, the object generator including instructions that when executed by the processor function as:

an object factory configured to receive a device identifier;

a pool having an interface configured to communicate with the object factory, the pool containing a plurality of object proxies each representing and capable of producing a respective object ~~objects~~; and

an object store coupled to the pool and configured to receive and retain objects generated by selected object proxies;

wherein the object factory is configured to poll each of ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of object proxies for a confidence level representing the capability of the respective object proxy to generate an object suited for operating with a device responsive to the device identifier, to receive, from each of the object proxies, a confidence level indicative of that object proxy's ability to generate the requested object, to select one of the plurality of proxies responsive to the received confidence levels, and to direct the selected proxy to create the object represented by the selected object proxy.

32. (cancelled)

33. (currently amended) A method for creating a best-match object at run time, comprising the steps of:

loading a ~~set~~ plurality of object proxies;

receiving indicia of a desired object for communicating with a peripheral device;

directing each of the plurality of object proxies to forward a confidence level representing the capability of each respective object proxy to generate the desired object ~~responsive to the indicia~~;

for each of the plurality of object proxies, receiving a confidence level associated with that object proxy

comparing the received confidence levels to a maximum confidence level;

if a first one of the received confidence levels matches the maximum confidence level, directing the object proxy associated with the first one of the confidence levels to generate an object; and

if none of the received confidence levels matches the maximum confidence levels identifying a second one of the received confidence levels that exceeds the remaining ones of the received confidence levels and directing the object proxy associated with the second one of the confidence levels to generate an object,

~~receiving a confidence level associated with an object proxy;~~

~~comparing the confidence level to a maximum confidence level, when the confidence level matches the maximum confidence level, directing the associated object proxy to generate an object, otherwise, recording the confidence level; and~~

~~determining if the confidence level exceeds the confidence level associated with a previously recorded confidence level, when the confidence level exceeds a previously recorded confidence level, recording an object proxy identifier, otherwise, determining if there are additional object proxies in the set, when there are additional object proxies, repeating the receiving a confidence level, comparing, and determining if the confidence level exceeds steps, otherwise, using the object proxy identifier to direct the associated object proxy to generate an object.~~

34. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium, comprising:

logic configured to load a set plurality of object proxies, each object proxy configured to generate a respective object;

logic configured to receive indicia of a desired object for communicating with a peripheral device;

logic configured to direct each of the object proxies to forward a confidence level representing the capability of each respective object proxy to generate the desired object;

logic configured to receive, from each of the plurality of object proxies, the a confidence level representing the capability of that object proxy to generate the desired object from respective object proxies;

logic configured to:

compare the received confidence levels to a maximum confidence level;

if a first one of the received confidence levels matches the maximum confidence level, directing the object proxy associated with the first one of the confidence levels to generate an object; and

if none of the received confidence levels matches the maximum confidence levels, identifying a second one of the received confidence levels that exceeds the remaining ones of the received confidence levels and directing the object proxy associated with the second one of the confidence levels to generate an object,

~~logic configured to compare the confidence level to a maximum confidence level, when the confidence level matches the maximum confidence level, the associated object proxy is directed to generate an object, otherwise, the logic records the confidence level; and determines if the confidence level exceeds the confidence level associated with a previously recorded confidence level, when the confidence level exceeds a previously recorded confidence level, the logic records an object proxy identifier, otherwise, the logic determines if there are additional object proxies in the set,~~

~~when there are additional object proxies, the logic receives a confidence level associated with an object proxy that has not reported a confidence level, and repeats the maximum confidence level and previously recorded confidence level comparisons, otherwise, the logic uses the object proxy identifier to direct the associated object proxy to generate an object.~~

35. (currently amended) A method for creating a best-match printer driver, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to use a printer;

polling a plurality of printer driver proxies for a confidence level representing the capability of each respective printer driver proxy to generate a driver that when applied to data and forwarded to the printer will produce a useful representation of the data, each printer driver proxy representing and configured to create a particular printer driver;

receiving, from each of the plurality of printer driver proxies, a confidence level indicative of that printer driver proxy's ability to generate a driver for the printer;

selecting one of the printer driver proxies based on the received polled confidence levels; and

directing the selected printer driver proxy to generate the driver represented by the selected printer driver proxy.

36. (original) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of receiving a request to use a printer comprises receiving a device identifier.

37. (original) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of receiving a request to use a printer comprises receiving indicia of a printer capability.

38. (original) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of selecting one of the printer driver proxies comprises comparing each confidence level with a previously received confidence level.

39. (original) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of selecting one of the printer driver proxies comprises storing an index associated with a printer driver proxy having a greater confidence level.

40. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium, comprising:

logic configured to receive a request to use a printer;

logic configured to poll a plurality of printer driver proxies for a confidence level representing the capability of each respective printer driver proxy to generate a driver that when applied to data and forwarded to the printer will produce a useful representation of the data, each printer driver proxy representing and configured to create a particular printer driver;

logic configured to receive, from each of the plurality of printer driver proxies, a confidence level indicative of that printer driver proxy's ability to generate a driver for the printer;

logic configured to select one of the printer driver proxies based on the received ~~polled~~ confidence levels; and

logic configured to direct the selected printer driver proxy to generate the driver represented by the selected printer driver proxy.

41. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 40, wherein the logic configured to receive a request to use a printer is configured to receive a device identifier.

42. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 40, wherein the logic configured to receive a request to use a printer is configured to receive indicia of a printer capability.

43. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 40, wherein the logic configured to select one of the printer driver proxies is configured to compare confidence levels with a previously received confidence level.

44. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 40, wherein the logic configured to select one of the printer driver proxies is configured to store an index associated with a printer driver proxy having a greater confidence level.